

FOR: Members, Tobacco Institute and TIRC

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TOBACCO NEWS SUMMARY

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NEWSPAPERS

32. Shimkin Hits Smoking. UPI Wire Story. September 14, 1960.

United Press International carried the following story, from the Fourth National Cancer Conference in Minneapolis, on its wires September 14. It includes part of a statement issued by TIRC:

"A medical expert yesterday blamed 60% of lung cancer deaths on cigarette smoking and the tobacco industry promptly blamed 'anti-tobacco zealots' with overlooking evidence to the contrary.

"Dr. Michael B. Shimkin, chief of biometry at the Bethesda, Maryland, National Cancer Institute, told a National Cancer Conference at the University of Minnesota that a halt to all smoking would annually save 20,000 lives lost to lung cancer.

"Timothy V. Hartnett, chairman of the Tobacco Industry Research Committee, said in New York, however, that 'It is unfortunate that the conference sponsors virtually limited the discussion of this subject to a few individuals who are historically committed to extreme anti-tobacco views.'

"He added that 'New scientific evidence...throws doubt on charges against smoking and suggests there are many factors involved in the complex chain that may result in lung cancer.'

"Dr. Shimkin told some 2,000 scientists and physicians at the conference it was 'established fact' that smoking causes a 'significant proportion' of cancer in the lungs, larynx and oral cavity."

33. "5 Possible Keys to Cancer Mystery." NEW YORK JOURNAL-AMERICAN & NEW YORK POST, (Associated Press), September 14, 1960

In an interview, Dr. John R. Heller, president of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York City, listed five major fields for study of possible cancer causing agents in the American environment: Unnecessary exposure to radiation, smoking, air pollution, some of the chemicals added to foodstuffs, and some chemicals handled in industry and manufacturing.

Dr. Heller said cancer tolls might well be cut 10 to 15 percent within 10 years by finding the answers in these areas. He thinks perhaps 15 to 20 percent of cancers might be traced to agents in our environment, admitting it could be "a wild guess."

He foresees big gains from research to find and then eliminate such causes, or finding ways of protecting humans against them. He said vaccines from cancer are not right around the corner, but has hopes they may be found.

"Vaccines depend on finding specific causes, such as viruses, which can be used to stimulate protective antibodies," the story said.

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